



# *BLM News*

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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WINNEMUCCA FIELD OFFICE, 5100 EAST WINNEMUCCA BLVD., WINNEMUCCA, NV 89445-2921

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## **BLM PREPARING WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR BLACK ROCK AREA**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Winnemucca Field Office is preparing an Environmental Assessment and Wilderness Management Plan for the ten Wilderness Areas associated with the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area (NCA) north of Gerlach in northwestern Nevada.

The wilderness areas were established by an act of Congress in 2000. A Resource Management Plan for the NCA was signed in July of 2004 that provides overall guidance for managing the NCA and Wilderness Areas. The Wilderness Management Plan (WMP) will set forth the management practices and actions that will be used to maintain the area's wilderness resources. The WMP will address the ten wilderness areas and the boundary and cherrystem road corridors associated with them.

The public is invited to provide issues and comments that assist BLM in further understanding existing conditions or identify where and what management actions may be needed in the wilderness areas. The more specific the issues or comments, the more beneficial they will be to the preparation of the WMP.

Written, substantive comments should be submitted by the close of business on March 7, 2006. Questions and comments should be directed to Wilderness Coordinator Brian Murdock at the BLM Winnemucca Field Office, 5100 E Winnemucca Blvd, Winnemucca NV 89445-2921, or by phone to 775-623-1500. Comments may also be submitted by email to [NV\\_WFO\\_Webmail@blm.gov](mailto:NV_WFO_Webmail@blm.gov). Email messages should include "Wilderness Plan" in the subject line.

BLM will consider your comments in the development of management alternatives consistent with the management of the area(s) as wilderness. A proposed management preferred alternative and other alternatives will be presented in a draft WMP and preliminary environmental assessment (EA) which is expected to be completed by January 2007 and will be available for a 45-day public comment period. Public open houses to discuss the draft WMP and preliminary EA and to receive questions and comments will be held after the draft WMP is released early next year.

Commenters wishing to have their names or addresses withheld from public view or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act must request this prominently at the beginning of their comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Anonymity is not allowed for submissions from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses.